



CEDIL Call for Proposals

Questions from the Commissioning Webinars

19th and 27th March 2019



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Activities covered by CEDIL funds

If I work in the research & development department of an implementing NGO, is it allowable to develop and evaluate an intervention as part of a POW1 project? Or does it need to be an intervention that our NGO is already implementing?

Interventions cannot be designed and implemented as part of a CEDIL project. Proposals should evaluate interventions that were designed separately.

Will the wider contributions to research outputs, overlaps with other projects etc. be funded? Will we be expected to allocate those costs in project proposals or is there a central fund that we would be able to tap into?

The contributions to the broader research outputs may overlap with other commissioned projects.

Project teams are expected to include these costs in their proposed budgets, as set out in the budget guidelines.

Will there be financial support available for proposal development process?

No.

It was identified that to link up implemented programmes to evaluation research team, the programmes (implementation intervention costs) would not be funded. For the rest of the CEDIL programme, are intervention costs eligible for funding?

CEDIL funds can be spent on research and evaluation costs, but not on implementing an intervention.

Is it possible for the organisations to have an M&E system improvement financed, as part of the support?

It is difficult to answer this question without having more context. Please write to us at cedil.commissioning@opml.co.uk to explain in more detail your proposed project and we will get back to you.

Budgeting rules

What, if any, are the restrictions on indirect cost rates?

We have now published the budget guidelines on the CEDIL website - <https://cedilprogramme.org/funding-opportunities/>. These guidelines outline the indirect costs (overheads) allowed, which vary according to the location of the applicant organisation. Please see page 6 for the relevant information.

Are there restrictions on the kind of costs that can be included in the budget (other than no intervention costs)? For example, salaries, travel, etc.

We have now published the budget guidelines on the CEDIL website - <https://cedilprogramme.org/funding-opportunities/>. These guidelines outline the different kinds of costs that can be included in applicant budgets, as well as the ineligible costs.

Will you be evaluating the percentage of an organisation's income that comes from DFID? Would this funding be covered under the 40% rule - no more than 40% of an organisation's income coming from DFID?

No, we will not check the percentage of an organisation's income that comes from DFID.

CEDIL's objectives

You mentioned in the beginning this is not just for pure research. Could you please clarify a little?

CEDIL projects are expected to deliver research and implement clear plans to enhance the uptake and impact of that research. Teams funded under CEDIL will be expected to contribute to the wider programme of CEDIL activity through participation in conferences, workshops and other appropriate activities

CEDIL's future plans

What is the potential for continuous collaboration with winning candidates, will they become preferred evaluation partners?

Applicants who are selected for funding this time round will not be given preferential treatment in any future commissioning rounds that CEDIL may do.

Definition of 'complex' intervention

How 'complex' is a complex intervention? The intervention I have in mind not a RCT, but it does have multiple components. Would this qualify as a complex intervention?

If the intervention has multiple components, it is likely to be considered a complex intervention. To strengthen your proposal, you will need to demonstrate how the evaluation you are proposing will contribute to filling a methodological and/or evidence gap in this area.

Does an intervention that includes interacting components to address one thematic area, e.g. education, qualify as a complex intervention?

Yes

Definition of large and small projects

Please can you say more about the criteria of the large scale projects? Is large based on budget, participants, or geographical areas?

The project sizes are based primarily on monetary value. In addition, each the two project sizes each have two project types allocated to them, and each of the project types have a number of characteristics which are described in the three programme of work call specification documents.

Below is a summary of what the large and small projects consist of:

- Large projects:
 - Evaluations: Up to £1 million
 - Secondary data analysis projects: Up to £300,000
- Small projects:

- Evidence synthesis projects: Up to £200,000
- Exploratory projects: Up to £100,000

DFID programmes for evaluation

Do you have particular interventions in specific countries that you/DFID are interested in evaluating outside of the partnerships process? Specifically, are there any in Kenya you are interested in evaluating?

We have not identified any specific programmes that we would like to be evaluated outside the matchmaking process for pairing teams with DFID programmes. However, there are a number of DFID programmes in Kenya that we are considering for the matchmaking process.

Eligible countries

Would CEDIL consider a proposal that planned to provide cross-country evidence from Bangladesh (a priority country) and India (not a priority)?

We will indeed consider proposals that include research on non-priority countries in addition to priority countries. However; please note that the stronger the focus a proposal has on the priority countries (also in terms of how the evidence from your research can be applied to the priority countries), the higher the score it is likely to receive when it is reviewed.

Can multi-country/region proposals be submitted?

Yes, as long as a significant proportion of the countries focussed on are CEDIL priority countries.

I would like to know the likelihood of a project in a non-listed country (mostly Francophone African countries) being selected? Actually, those countries lack relevant and rigorous evaluations.

In order to be eligible for funding, projects must be substantially focussed on at least one of the priority countries. Work involving other countries is allowed, as long as it is comparative to the work being conducted in the priority country/ies.

Can an institution or organization based in Ghana apply to undertake a project based in Ghana?

Ghana is not a CEDIL priority country, so a proposal for a project focussing on Ghana only would not be eligible for funding. However, an organisation in based in Ghana could apply to do a project focussing on a CEDIL priority country/ies, and it could also include work in Ghana as long as it is comparative to the work being conducted in the priority country/ies.

Are global projects that have activities in the priority countries eligible to be studied?

Yes, as long a significant proportion of the countries covered by the project are CEDIL priority countries.

Eligible interventions

Is there a priority for evaluations of DFID-funded interventions (not-necessarily through the matchmaking process)?

There is no particular preference for evaluations of DFID-funded interventions over non-DFID interventions. The important thing is that the intervention studied is on a thematic area that is of interest to DFID (see list of priority themes in call overview document) and that methodology and/or evidence produced contribute to filling a current gap.

Can you give us examples of eligible interventions for evaluation?

Any intervention that meets the specification set out in the call documentation for a complex intervention (PoW 1), or which can be evaluated through the application of mid-level theories to enhance the transferability of findings (PoW 2), and which addresses at least one of the priority themes listed in the call overview, will be considered eligible.

Can the applicant propose to evaluate an intervention that it hasn't been working on or will not be part of? e.g. government nutrition interventions?

Yes

Can interventions completed long time ago (e.g. 10+ years ago) be eligible?

It is possible to study interventions that have already been completed. However, you will need to make a strong case to demonstrate why the evidence to be produced from studying this intervention will be useful and relevant.

Eligible thematic areas

Are agricultural research projects eligible for evaluation (i.e. CGIAR led)?

Yes, if they are relevant to one of the priority thematic areas listed in the CEDIL call overview document

The themes are quite broad as you mentioned. Our focus would be on stigma reduction in humanitarian and protracted crises; an exploratory approach to see whether a generic customizable approach would be feasible in various contexts, for various groups of people facing stigmatisation. This could be linked to humanitarian assistance, or gender/disability, or to a more just society (justice), or inclusive growth. How would you see the chances for such a topic?

From the description provided, the topic you are proposing appears to be related to several of CEDIL's priority thematic areas, meaning that, from this point of view, the project should be eligible for funding.

There are many themes discussed in the RFP. Can someone work on themes other than those themes? For instance, agriculture is a priority area set by the government of Pakistan and there have been many interventions to improve agricultural productivity. How would you respond if someone is planning to evaluate the agriculture sector?

Your proposal should demonstrate how your project relates to one of the listed themes. For example, agricultural productivity could be linked to economic development, sustainable resource management or nutrition

We work on interventions around adolescent girls' empowerment and menstrual health which are not CEDIL focus areas. But these interventions are often situated within schools which are in the education sector. So, would such complex interventions be eligible?

Research in these areas could be relevant to the themes of education and gender, so it would be eligible.

Eligible organisations

Is it OK if a lead organisation is an NGO? Obviously academic linkages are advantageous but is there a model that is prioritised?

There is no preference for a particular type of organisation to lead project teams. The only requirements are that the organisation is a legal entity and that it has the capacity and remit to carry out research. It will also need to pass OPM's (the contracting organisation within CEDIL) due diligence checks, which will be conducted at a later stage in the commissioning process.

You mentioned there are no restrictions on types of organisations. However, in the 'Confirmation of Intention to submit proposals'-portal the selection of types of organisations is quite limited (listing: Public limited company; Public research organisation / university; Limited company; Limited liability partnership).

Our organisation is a privately registered applied research foundation. Which of the options should we choose when registering to submit?

Please select 'Other' and write your organisation's type in the blank field provided.

Can one of the CEDIL organisations lead a submission?

All CEDIL consortium partners, except for Oxford Policy Management, may lead on an application for funding.

Can institutions of sole proprietorship be the lead organisation of a research team?

No, the lead organisation must be a legal entity and have the capacity and remit to carry out research, and it will also need to pass OPM's (the contracting organisation within CEDIL) due diligence checks, which will be conducted at a later stage in the commissioning process.

I live in Colombia and am trying to apply as a Colombian NGO. Will this location be equally considered? Or are Asia and Africa prioritized?

Organisations applying for CEDIL funding can be located anywhere in the world. The important thing is that your proposed project focusses on at least one of the priority CEDIL countries.

Expertise required

Are you expecting professional evaluators to be engaged or if it's researchers who are interested in evaluation, would that be sufficient?

It doesn't matter whether the project team is made up of professional evaluators or researchers or both, as long as the team has the skills required to successfully deliver the research.

Intellectual Property

Who will retain the intellectual property of these innovative evaluation methods?

Intellectual property rights created under the CEDIL contract will be owned by the supplier (i.e. the research team); however, DFID and CEDIL will have an unlimited licence to use the intellectual property. Please refer to the draft terms and conditions, when published, for further details.

Matchmaking process

For the matchmaking process, does the April 11 deadline apply? Should we just provide bios of teams or still need to provide 1000 words proposal?

The deadline of 11 April for registering intention to submit an application for funding applies to all application types. For guidance on what teams applying to go through the matchmaking process need to submit at the expression of interest stage, please refer to the application guidelines for large projects and the guidance note on the matchmaking process, which can be accessed at <https://cedilprogramme.org/funding-opportunities/>.

If an institution is not in a CEDIL priority country but is in a DFID priority country, and goes through the matchmaking process, will it be matchmade with a project that is in a CEDIL priority country or a DFID priority country? Is there a possibility that the institution will be matched with a project in their same country?

Organisations applying for CEDIL funding can be located in any country; they do not have to be located in a DFID or CEDIL priority country.

In the matchmaking process, how projects teams are matched to DFID programmes will be determined by a number of factors, including among others: the methodology that the project team is proposing; the thematic areas of interest of the project team; the experience of the project team in working in particular geographical areas.

I assume that when showing initial intent to apply if we are interested in a match-making scheme, we need to nominate which project we need to be matched with. Is this the case? If this is the case, when will the interventions for potential matchmaking be defined and distributed?

In your expression of interest, you need to indicate which thematic areas you would be interested in conducting an evaluation in. The thematic areas of the DFID programmes are listed in section 1 of the guidance note on the matchmaking process, which can be downloaded from <https://cedilprogramme.org/funding-opportunities/>.

Methodological innovation

Concerning methodological innovation, is it a given that CEDIL is seeking new evaluation approaches that minimize resource requirements for evaluation?

It is not a requirement for evaluations under CEDIL to minimise the resources required to undertake the evaluation, however this is one possible area in which projects may demonstrate the value of the innovation they propose. The main objective is to provide new and innovative methodologies which allow evaluations to be undertaken in areas and contexts where appropriate methods are currently lacking.

Number of projects to be funded

Do you have an established number of large and small project you would like to fund?

We do not have a set number of large and small projects that we will fund; it depends on the number and quality of applications received for the different project types. However, we estimate that we will fund approximately 20 projects in total, including 11 large projects and 9 small projects.

Programmes of work and project types

Will a project which makes evidence accessible worldwide (including priority countries) be considered in the small projects programme? This is related to use and usefulness of evidence.

Evidence produced by projects must be useful for one or more of the CEDIL priority countries. If, in addition, the evidence is also useful in other contexts, this is fine.

Please could you show us the slide that says which types of project you'll fund under each programme of work? Is there a reason that exploratory projects aren't being encouraged under the first programme of work?

The table of project types to be funded can be found both on the CEDIL funding page at <https://cedilprogramme.org/funding-opportunities/> and in the call overview document.

Exploratory projects are not included in the first programme of work because our priority for complex interventions is on the development of larger scale evaluation or evidence synthesis methods.

Would it be possible to submit a project which covers 2 programmes of work?

It is fine to submit a proposal for a project that spans the themes of more than one programme of work. However, the proposal should be submitted under just programme of work; that under which the project fits best.

Are prospective evaluations eligible only under PW1?

Evaluation projects may come under programme of work 1 'evaluating complex interventions' and programme of work 2 'middle range theory'

I have a question about the 3rd bucket of projects. Do the projects need to be research about how to make evaluation results more 'actionable' and understandable for decision making, or can they also involve developing and piloting systems/approaches to making results more actionable?

Both types of projects are acceptable under programme of work 3.

Southern partnership requirement

Can you elaborate on the North-South partnership?

We do not have a specific definition for 'southern partnerships.' Rather, we assert that there are numerous reasons why substantial contribution for southern researchers and evaluators will be essential for projects to deliver the strategic objectives of CEDIL. These include:

- More in-depth understanding of the complexities of interventions and the contexts in which they are implemented
- Greater visibility, access and credibility with southern policy-makers and other stakeholders
- Enhanced opportunities for partnerships to build evaluation capacity in countries where this is currently under-developed

If the lead organisation is based in Europe, would a bid that partners with southern-based individuals (contracted as consultants) face a disadvantage over those bids which contract

with Southern Institutions, or is it just more important that individual researchers are involved and price is competitive?

The important thing is that your team includes members from low- or middle-income countries with experience, expertise and connections in the priority country/ies that your project is focussing on, and that the collaboration is structured to enable genuine and balanced partnerships. Whether these team members are contracted individually or through a southern partner organisation is of less importance. Proposals will not be assessed on price competitiveness.

Would an INGOs country office based in the South be considered as a southern partner?

Yes, offices of international organisations, which are based in low- or middle-income countries can be considered southern partners.

Which countries are considered under "South" is it all developing countries? Or just the countries listed under priority countries?

By 'South', we mean all low- or middle-income countries.

Regarding North-South partnerships, can southern researchers be based in a different country than the country of focus of the bid? For example, a proposal focuses on Tanzania, but our research partner is based in Colombia.

'Southern' researchers can be based in a different country the focus country/ies for the bid. However, you should provide evidence of their experience, expertise and connections in the focus country/ies for the research.

Submitting multiple applications

Are there restrictions in terms of the number of proposals an individual (within an organisation) can submit?

There is no limit to the number of proposals in which an individual may be involved. However, individuals must have the capacity to deliver projects if all are selected for funding.

Our program is very large. Can we apply for being evaluated in one topic, and submitting to evaluate ourselves another topic (not talking about single components, but full packages)?

It is difficult to answer this question without having more context. Please write to us at cedil.commissioning@opml.co.uk to explain in more detail your programme and the proposed evaluations and we will get back to you.

Rules around implementing and evaluating an intervention

We have been working with a local implementer in co-creating a complex intervention involving gender transformative approaches in one of the priorities countries. We are in conversations with a local academic institution that would like to evaluate the intervention. Will CEDIL consider to fund us given that we have been involved to some extent in the development of the intervention?

This is fine, provided that measures are put in place to mitigate any potential conflicts of interest or ethical issues. These measures need to be set out in the proposal.

If an organisation is implementing a programme, can it put forward a proposal to evaluate it (itself) or research an aspect of it?

You may submit a proposal for an evaluation of an intervention by the same organisation, provided that:

- The CEDIL funds are to be used only for the evaluation of the intervention (and not for its implementation)
- Measures are put in place to mitigate any potential conflicts of interest or ethical issues caused by the fact that it is the same organisation implementing and evaluating the intervention. These measures need to be set out in the proposal.

Are applications where the same organisation does both the implementation and the research eligible, assuming no program costs are covered by the CEDIL grant? Or will such applications be downgraded due to COI concerns?

It is fine to submit a proposal for an evaluation of an intervention by the same organisation, provided that measures are put in place to mitigate any potential conflicts of interest or ethical issues. These measures need to be set out in the proposal.

Rules on language

Can part of the project be implemented and reported in French, as some of the priority countries are French speaking such as Mali and DRC?

The research can be conducted in the language of your choice; however, project outputs must be written in English. In addition, if the CEDIL directorate needs to review elements of the research work for quality assurance purposes, the relevant work will need to be translated into English and the cost of this would need to be covered by your budget.

Rules on team / consortium structure

Can a proposal be submitted jointly by 2 -3 partners working in related projects?

Project teams can consist of more than one organisation; however, the proposal needs to be for a single project. In addition, the project team must be led by one organisation only.

Can a proposal have more than one partner wanting to work jointly?

Project teams can be made up of more than one organisation; however, there can only be one organisation leading the consortium. This organisation will be responsible for holding the contract with OPM and for subcontracting the other organisations in the team.

Can teams be made up of researchers of different institutions? Say, some people from a university, others from an international organization etc

Yes, teams can be made up of several organisations. However, there must be only one lead organisation, which is responsible for submitting the proposal and subsequently subcontracting the other organisations and individuals involved.

If the lead applicant is from a registered organisation, can individuals/consultants be included as part of the team? Could costs for their time be included?

Yes, the lead organisation may subcontract other organisations and individuals. And yes, the cost of their time should be included. Please refer to the budget guidelines, which can now be downloaded from <https://cedilprogramme.org/funding-opportunities/> for instructions on how to present the different project costs.

Selection criteria

Will you share more information about technical and commercial criteria against which the proposals are evaluated? Is value for money/price important or will that be negotiated if the technical concept is good?

We have now published our proposal selection criteria on the CEDIL website at <https://cedilprogramme.org/funding-opportunities/>. Value for money will be one of the assessment criteria.